

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended)

A test device for testing of analyte concentration in a fluid to be applied thereto, the device comprising:

- a) a plurality of test members arranged in at least ~~one stack~~ a first stack, each of said test members carrying ~~reagent means for producing an electrical signal in response to a concentration of analyte in a fluid applied to the reagent means~~, each of said test members having a plurality of electrode tracks ~~for transmitting said that are adapted and configured to conduct an electrical signal~~;
- b) a housing having electrodes disposed therein ~~for engaging with that are adapted and configured to engage~~ the electrode tracks ~~on a test member of each of the test members of the first stack when such test member is positioned at an engagement location~~;
- c) a meter ~~operatively connected to the said electrodes~~ electrodes of the housing and disposed at least partly in the housing, ~~the meter having electronics means for producing a signal output which is dependent on the electrical signal from a test member when the test member is engaged with the said electrodes~~;
- d) a pusher which is adapted to push a single test member ~~pushably move each of the test members in turn at least partially from the first stack and into the engagement location where it can such test member will engage with the said electrodes~~ of the housing and where the test member such test member can be accessed to apply a fluid thereto to the reagent of such test member;

- e) an actuation member operably connected to the pusher, the actuation member being operable by a user to move the pusher relative to the housing;
- f) the ~~at least one first stack of test members being enclosed~~ being contained in a magazine which is initially sealed by a moisture impermeable seal; and
- g) ~~blade means provided in the housing for slitting the said seal wherein movement of a blade, the magazine being movable~~ relative to the housing from an initial position where the seal is intact to a position where the pusher can push a first one of the test members from the ~~stack~~ thereby first stack, the movement causing the blade means to cut the seal ~~to form in a manner forming~~ a slit through which a test member can pass ~~when the test member the first test member is able to pass through as first test member~~ is pushed by the pusher toward the engagement location.

2. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein the test members are arranged in a plurality of stacks further comprising second and third stacks, each of the second and third stacks comprising a plurality of test members, each of said test members carrying reagent and having a plurality of electrode tracks that are adapted and configured to transmit an electrical signal, each of the second and third stacks being enclosed~~ contained in a magazine which is initially sealed by a moisture impermeable seal, each ~~of the magazines being movable relative to the housing so as to enable the blade means to~~ in a manner such that movement of said magazine causes the blade to slit the seal of each of the magazines in turn as each of the magazines reaches said magazine as said magazine is moved to a position at which ~~where~~ the pusher can push a test

member therefrom one of the test members of said magazine toward the engagement position.

3. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuation member is configured and adapted in a manner such that operation of the actuation member causes the pusher to engage with the electrodes of the housing and bring the electrodes of the housing into contact with the electrode tracks on each of the test member-members when the test such test member is in the engagement location.

4. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the actuation member is configured and adapted in a manner such that further operation of the actuation member causes the pusher to push a test such test member from the engagement location and eject the test such test member from the housing.

5. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pusher is provided with comprises at least one cutting surface for cutting that is adapted and configured to cut the seal.

6. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 2, ~~wherein the magazine is housed in a cartridge further comprising a cartridge that houses each of the magazines and that is moveable relative to the housing.~~

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 6, ~~wherein the cartridge is urged by a spring means towards a ratchet wheel which has a keyway therein, the cartridge being provided with device further comprises a ratchet wheel having a keyway, and wherein the cartridge is biased against the ratchet wheel and comprises a plurality of spaced apart location pegs for locating in the keyway~~ configured and adapted to locate in the keyway, and the ratchet wheel ~~only permitting entry of a location peg~~ is configured and adapted to permit any one of the location pegs to locate in the keyway only when the ratchet wheel is in a defined orientation relative to the cartridge.

10. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 9, ~~wherein operation of the actuating member causes indexing of the ratchet wheel~~ the actuating member is configured and adapted

to cause the ratchet wheel to rotate in a manner indexing the keyway of the ratchet wheel with one of the location pegs of the cartridge.

11. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a sliding member which has having an angled slot therein which provides, the angled slot having a cam surface that bears against the pusher, whereby the sliding member being configured and adapted in a manner such that movement of the sliding member in a first direction causes movement of the pusher in a second direction.

12. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a spring means which urge biasing member that biases the stack of test members towards the seal.

13. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for releasably detaining the pusher when the test member wherein the pusher is adapted and configured to be releasable detained in position relative to the housing one of the test members is in the engagement location.

14. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a processor and means for initiating a timer when a magazine is first opened, the processor being programmed to

~~provide a visible message if a magazine which is in use exceeds its shelf life a timer and a display, the timer being configured and adapted to track the duration of time that passes from the breaking of the seal of the magazine by the blade, the display being operatively connected to the timer and being configured and adapted to visibly display indicia indicative of expiration of the useful life of the test members as a result of time that passes from the breaking of the seal of the magazine by the blade.~~

15. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the analyte to be tested for is glucose and the fluid to be applied is blood ~~reagent is adapted and configured to react with blood glucose.~~

16. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the magazines are releasably connected together and wherein the housing has an opening through which ~~used magazines will project each of the magazines can pass through after being separated from the other of the magazines.~~

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each test member in the ~~at least one stack comprises a base member having a working area to which the fluid is to be~~

applied, the base member containing the reagent means, and each test member having a non-working area adjacent to the working area, wherein the total thickness of the test member in at least a portion of the non-working area is at least as great as the total thickness of the test member in the working area first stack consists of a working portion that is defined by the reagent and a non-working portion, the working portion has a maximum thickness, and the non-working portion has a maximum thickness that is at least as great as the maximum thickness of the working portion.

19. (currently amended)

A device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the total maximum thickness of the test member in at least a part of the non-working area portion is greater than the total maximum thickness of the test member in the working-area portion.

20. (cancelled)

21. (new)

A test device comprising:

a stack of test members, each of said test members carrying reagent, each of said test members having a plurality of electrode tracks that are adapted and configured to conduct an electrical signal;

a housing having an engagement location and electrodes, the electrodes being adapted and configured to engage the electrode tracks of each of the test members of the first stack when such test member is positioned at the engagement location;

a blade;

a magazine, the stack of test members being contained by the magazine, the magazine being movable relative to the housing; and

a moisture impermeable seal, the seal sealing each of the test members from moisture in the atmosphere, the movement of the magazine relative to the housing causing the blade to cut the seal in manner preventing the seal from sealing each of the test members from moisture in the atmosphere.